

A NEW REVIEW,

Embellished with PORTRAITS, and Illustrated by BIOGRAPHY.

PROSPECTUS

OF

The NEW LONDON REVIEW;

OR,

MONTHLY REPORT of AUTHORS and BOOKS.

"Reviews show the progress of a country, or an age, in taste and arts, in refinement of manners, and in the cultivation of science. They mark the gradations of language itself, and the progressive or retrograde motions of the public mind upon the most interesting subjects in ethics, in politics, and religion."

DR. PARR.

A Few Men of Letters, of independent principles, and of some distinction in the learned world, have agreed to unite their efforts in forming and conducting a Periodical Work, under the Title of "The NEW LONDON REVIEW; or, MONTHLY REPORT of AUTHORS and BOOKS."

The propriety, and indeed the necessity of this undertaking, appear to them to be founded on very substantial reasons. There does not, as they apprehend, exist, even in this free country, and amidst all the lustre of the eighteenth century, a Register of Literature animated by a spirit of candid and liberal Criticism. Party politics, with all the feuds and asperities incident to the passions of venality and ambition, maintain an undue ascendancy in all. The benign genius of Religion is either absorbed in sordid bigotry by some, or foully associated with licentiousness in others. It has become the tool of interest to one faction, the ladder of preferment to another, and the butt of ridicule to a third. Taste, under the prevalence of these prejudices, cannot be pure, science liberal, literature useful, or criticism candid.

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The learned labours of this enlightened age merit a record as independent as possible of such prepossessions. *The New London Review*; or, *Monthly Report of Authors and Books*, will be under the management of Gentlemen, who are determined never to lose sight of this desirable object. They are admirers of our inestimable Constitution. They love the Laws of the Land. They are happy in living under a free Government. They know the value of Religion too well to misrepresent her, or to connive either at her open enemies or her insidious friends. Actuated by these Principles, they are not likely to betray any of the important public interests which they may espouse, to the bias of education, the imperious mandates of fashion, the partialities of connection, or the affectation of paradox.

It is not intended to make this Work a vehicle either of unqualified censure or applause, but, even in the least meritorious production that comes under cognizance, rather to point out what deserves praise, than industriously to search for what may incur blame. The Plan is suggested, and will be executed in the conviction, that few performances are wholly destitute of merit; that it is more useful to disclose latent excellence, than to exaggerate common faults; that the public taste suffers less from inaccurate writing, than from illiberal criticism; and that the vindication of literature is often but a pompous pretext for indulging invidious prejudice and petulant dogmatism.

The Works to be noticed in *The New London Review* will receive that degree of consideration which they shall severally merit either by their magnitude or utility. Attention will be given to each, in proportion to the labour it has occasioned, the excellence of the object at which it aims, and the likelihood of the means adopted for accomplishing it. Such, however, as have cost less pains, are on an inferior scale, more in a style of mediocrity, or betray a structure less lofty, ornamental, and finished, and occupy none of the higher walks of genius and taste, must be ranked with the common-place of the Month, and be content, as in other Reviews, with such brief notice as the Catalogue admits,

Though no arrogance will be indulged in this Publication, whatever disturbs the public harmony, insults legal authority, outrages the best regards of the heart, invalidates the radical obligations of morality, attacks the vital springs, and established functions of piety, or in any respect clashes with the sacred forms of decency, however witty, elegant, and otherwise well written, can be noticed only in terms of severe and unequivocal reprehension.



The New London Review is intended to furnish an honest and exact report of what is passing among those engaged in the pursuit of Science and polite Learning, and to give such a picture of it in its present cultivated state, as may do honour to the English Press, and such as men of polished and enlightened minds delight to contemplate. As the majority of its readers will probably be of this class, proper care will be taken, for their accommodation, both to please the eye, and to gratify the understanding. The Paper will be of a superior colour and texture; the Type will preserve a due medium between unnecessary magnitude and that diminutiveness which baffles and injures the sight; and in the Preparation and Superintendence of the Press, an accurate Revisal of the Text, and an elegant Display of the Letter, will be carefully and uniformly blended. The Work will be printed in the form of an OCTAVO, and each Number will contain 104 Pages.

The necessary arrangements also are adopted for furnishing the readers of this Work with the earliest and most correct report of Foreign Literature.

It may be presumed, without much vanity, that among the various Gentlemen embarked in this arduous undertaking, there is a sufficiency of talent for all the purposes they have in view;—there are, nevertheless, many Men of Letters who, objecting to share in the responsibility and publicity with which the conduct of a Literary Work is always, in some measure, accompanied, are yet desirous of communicating their sentiments upon the productions of the English Press, through the medium of a respectable Review:—To such Men, whether publicly distinguished in the walks of Learning, or indulging a fondness for Books in the ease and privacy of retirement, the NEW LONDON REVIEW shall ever be open. From this *Prospectus* they will gather how far they may coincide with our Plan on the score of Political and Religious *Principle*; and if we agree in that essential point, we here declare, that a difference of opinion in matters of less moment shall not operate to the exclusion of any Article that may be drawn up with suitable candour and ability. By this means there will be a nobler latitude of design, a more assured liberality of sentiment, and a happier concentration of various acquirements than any prescribed *Association of Men* can possibly command. It will be obvious, however, that these casual Contributions should come sanctioned to the EDITOR by the *name* of the Writer. The confidence reposed in him shall be sacred and inviolable,

Another important characteristic by which this Review will distinguish itself from all preceding or contemporary efforts of a similar nature, will be
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its ORNAMENTAL and BIOGRAPHIC ILLUSTRATIONS. Of a Writer who has astonished us by his learning, or delighted us by his genius, who does not desire to know somewhat of his personal character—the quality of his ancestors—the place of his nativity—his progressional advancement in science—his connections in life, &c.? Who does not wish, also, to observe how he *looks*, to trace “the mind’s index in the face,” and endeavour to discover if there be any apparent connection between the Author and his Work? Who has not, we may add, at times, *fancied* the Portraiture of a favourite Writer, and given to his countenance ideal lineaments of wisdom or of piety, of benevolence or of humour, according to the impression which his Works have made upon the mind? A *Review* very naturally promotes these desires; and to gratify both at once, it is intended to give, in every Number of *The New London Review*, a PORTRAIT of some eminent Literary Character, from an *Original Painting*, accompanied with a MEMOIR, authenticated from the best and the purest sources. Of Authors, perhaps, more than any other class of men, it may be necessary to *catch the manners living as they rise*. The most interesting traits of Literary Minds are sought for in vain amid the fabulous materials of posthumous panegyric, but are often within the reach of contemporary attention and industry. We hope thus, in the course of time, to establish a rich fund of learned Anecdote and Biographical Information.

This we conceive to be not only an Improvement upon Reviews in general, but a *desideratum* that has long been wanted, to give completeness to the most valuable specimens of the Periodical Literature of the Country. Whenever we can so adapt our Plan to circumstances, the Portrait shall be that of the Writer whose Work may happen to form the leading Article of the Month; but when this cannot be done, some character of equal celebrity shall regularly be substituted, according as it may suit with our convenience.

The Engravings will be executed by Mr. RIDLEY.

No. I. of *The New London Review*; or, *Monthly Report of Authors and Books*, will be published on the 1st day of FEBRUARY, 1799, and on the 1st day of every succeeding Month, price 1s. 6d.

N. B. All Books, Literary Communications, and Orders, are requested to be addressed to the Editors, at VERNOR and HOOD’S, No. 31, in the Poultry.

